

# Energy Efficiency Matching Grant Program for Affordable, Multi-Family Housing

Fall 2021 Round due Friday, October 1, 2021 at 5:00PM



## CRITERIA AND FUNDING GUIDELINES

The City of Cincinnati offers matching grants on a quarterly basis for owners of multi-family buildings (2 or more units) to make electric energy efficiency upgrades. One-to-one matches of owners' investment dollars are available up to \$5,000 for each qualifying building. Funds are from Duke Energy Ohio and up to \$80,000 can be distributed per round. Review the following details carefully before applying.

### Eligibility to Apply:

- The building(s) must:
  - Be a multi-family (2 or more units), residential structure;
  - Be located within the City of Cincinnati;
  - Have at least 50% or more of tenants at or below 200% FPL. Please refer to the [US Health and Human Services guidelines](#) to better understand whether a majority of your tenants fall within the 200% requirement. Yet to be inhabited buildings cannot be considered;
- Tenants must have Duke Energy electricity bills for their unit in their name; and
- Applicants can be non-profit or for-profit organizations. Individual landlords are also eligible.
- While past matching grant recipients are welcome to apply, applicants with yet to be completed matching grant projects open from an earlier round are unable to reapply until the present grant is complete and closed.

### Program Requirements:

- Proposed energy efficiency measures must be centered on improving electricity efficiency, not natural gas efficiency;
- Improvements proposed must directly reduce the cost of electricity bills and result in verifiable energy savings for low-income tenants upon analysis by the Office of Environment and Sustainability. To get an idea of the likely savings from your proposed capital investment(s) [visit here](#).
- Improvements proposed must utilize [EnergyStar](#) or [DesignLights Consortium](#) recommended technologies. All presently approved technologies are included in the Eligible Energy Efficient Technologies document associated with this application;
- Owners must present an application with at least a 1:1 match of requested funds;
- Only the hard cost of supplies and materials for upgrades are reimbursable in this grant. The City is unable to approve or reimburse for labor or tax-related project costs in the matching grant award. Please take this into account when building your budget and overall grant request amount.
- Matching grant awardees must:
  - Pledge to maintain pre-award rent levels and percentage of low-income tenants for at least two years following the award.
  - Register, at no cost, as a vendor with the City of Cincinnati and provide a W-9 form

### Other Details:

- Owners are permitted to submit multiple applications in a given grant cycle. One complete application is needed for each distinct address.
- This matching grant functions as a reimbursement. Building owners who receive the grant are responsible for purchasing materials, completing their proposed upgrade project during the timeline

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below, scheduling and conducting a brief site visit after project completion, and submitting an invoice and proof of all payment prior to any reimbursement. All activities need to take place between October 23, 2021 - February 4, 2022 unless an extension is requested and granted.

## Application Process:

- A complete submission includes an online application with the project budget and all relevant quotes/estimates attached.
- All portions of the application need to be completed and submitted online unless other arrangements are needed and made.
- [APPLY USING THIS LINK](#)
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Submissions will be evaluated based on completeness, eligibility, strength of alignment with program requirements and funding priorities, budget, clarity, and energy savings impact.

FALL GRANT TIMETABLE	
Pre-Application Info Session	September 15, 2021 4:00PM
Applications Due	October 1, 2021
Award Notification	October 22, 2021
Project Completion Window *only purchases must be made during this time period are eligible for reimbursement	October 23, 2021 - January 14, 2021
Site Visits and Invoice/Receipt Submission Window	January 15 - February 4, 2022
Closure of Fall Grant Cycle	February 4, 2022

## Funding Priorities:

Selection for matching grant investment will be influenced by the following priorities:

- Property located in a neighborhood known for higher than average energy burden:
  - a. Queensgate, Winton Hills, Villages at Roll Hill, English Woods, Millvale, West End, Lower Price Hill, Mt. Airy, Walnut Hills, Avondale, East Westwood, South Fairmount, Roselawn, North Fairmount, Evanston, and Westwood
- Upgrades planned that will provide the greatest opportunity for energy savings per [2010 Ohio Technical Reference Manual \(TRM\)](#)
- High percentage of tenants living at or below 200% of the FPL
- High number of households/units and overall individuals to be engaged
- Owner demonstrates a history of preservation of affordable housing units and/or supportive housing and/or a participatory management system that maintains affordability of housing

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- Building owners investing in energy efficiency measures beyond the 1:1 match and thereby increasing the leverage of the matching grant dollars.
- Buildings that have already completed an ASHRAE Level 2 audit and will use these grant funds to implement the audit recommendations (please submit documentation of the audit).
- Nonprofit applications including: 1) Community Development Corporations that preserve affordable housing through partnerships and/or land trusts; 2) Organizations that provide and preserve affordable housing and/or supportive housing, and/or 3) Organizations with a participatory management system that maintains affordability of housing through collective ownership or leasing (i.e. renter equity).

## Resources

- [Energy Burden on Low-Income, African American, and Latino Households Up to Three Times As High As Other Homes: More Energy Efficiency Needed.](#) (2016). American Council for An Energy Efficient Economy.
- [Energy Burden in the City of Cincinnati.](#) (2019). Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance.
- [Understanding Cincinnati's multifamily housing stock: An analysis to improve access to energy efficiency for low-income households.](#) (2020). University of Cincinnati.

**For more information on this Matching Grant Program, please contact:**

Molly Robertshaw, City of Cincinnati, Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES)  
at [molly.robertshaw@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:molly.robertshaw@cincinnati-oh.gov).